

EPI Update for Friday, April 5, 2013
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)
Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Reminder that VRSA is immediately reportable in Iowa**
- **Influenza A (H7N9) in China**
- **Trichinosis rare but still occurs**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Reminder that VRSA is immediately reportable in Iowa

This week a suspect case of vancomycin-resistant *Staph aureus* (VRSA) was reported in Iowa; however, additional testing at the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) indicated that the organism was sensitive to vancomycin. This case serves as a good reminder that VRSA cases have been identified in the U.S. (12 cases have been reported since 2002), so cases could occur in Iowa. Please immediately report any suspect VRSA cases to IDPH. IDPH will coordinate with the health care facilities, SHL, and local public health to expedite transport of the specimen to SHL for additional testing and begin any appropriate investigation.

For more information on VRSA, visit www.cdc.gov/HAI/organisms/vrsa_vrsa/vrsa.html.

For the clinical laboratory protocol for suspect VRSA from SHL, visit www.shl.uiowa.edu/dcd/sentlabtrain/Mary%20DeMartino%2012-02-09%20Protocol%20for%20Clinical%20laboratories%20with%20a%20Possible%20Vancomycin%20Intermediate%20or%20Resistant%20Staph%20aureus.pdf.

Influenza A (H7N9) in China

Chinese public health officials have reported 14 cases of human infection with a novel avian influenza A (H7N9) virus from four different provinces in China. All patients were hospitalized with severe respiratory illness, and six persons have died. No person-to-person transmission or epidemiologic link between any of the cases has been identified. No cases of human infection with avian influenza A (H7N9) viruses have been detected in the United States.

For additional information visit: emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00344.asp.

Trichinosis rare but still occurs

IDPH recently investigated a suspect case of trichinosis, which is a reportable disease in Iowa. The patient initially tested positive for *Trichinella* via serology, but later tested negative after the specimen was sent to CDC for confirmation.

Human cases of trichinosis are now rare in the U.S., with an average of 20 cases reported each year. Almost all cases now occur among those who have eaten raw or undercooked wild game meats.

For more information on trichinosis, visit
www.idph.state.ia.us/cade/DiseaseIndex.aspx?disease=Trichinosis.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

Registration is now open for the 2013 Iowa Immunization Conference, which will take place June 12-13 at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Des Moines. For more information and to register, visit
www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Immunization.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=ImmHome.

The *2013 Iowa Infection Prevention and Control Seminar* will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, May 7-8 at the Marriott Conference Center, Des Moines. For more information and to register, visit www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/UIConferences/.

The 2013 Annual CSTE Conference will be held June 9-13 in Pasadena, CA. For more information, visit www.csteconference.org/.

Dr. Patricia Quinlisk from IDPH and Dr. Lucy Desjardin from SHL will be teaching a course titled "Field Experiences in Public Health" this summer. The course is available to University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and Des Moines University students who have taken a public health epidemiology course. The course will be taught electronically from two locations (University of Iowa and Des Moines University). Students will gain experience in several areas of public health using practical examples, site visits, and field investigations. For more information, call 319-335-2575 or 800-272-6430.

Have a healthy and happy week!

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